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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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MAR 29 2004

In re patent application of:)
Allan Brown et al.)
Serial No. 10/031,727)
Filed January 22, 2002)
(371 Date May 21, 2002))
ISOLATION OF BIOMOLECULES)
US National Stage of PCT/GB00/02798)
International Filing Date July 24, 2000)

Before the Examiner
Fredman, Jeffrey Norman

Group Art Unit
1634

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Communication dated January 30, 2004, please consider the following. Additionally, please provide any extensions of time that may be necessary and charge any fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but do not include payment of issue fees that are or may become due.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office to the following facsimile number: (703) 872-9306 _____ (Facsimile Number) <i>March 29 2004</i> _____ (Date of Facsimile Transmission) James B. Myers Jr. _____ Name of Registered Representative <i>James B. Myers Jr.</i> _____ Signature
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

7146-000107.271819

Page 1 of 2

REMARKS

In a communication dated January 30, 2004, a restriction to one of the following patentably distinct species was required under 35 USC §121:

- I. Claims 1-13 and 33-43 drawn to methods of purification, and
- II. Claims 14-32 drawn to a purification apparatus.

In response, Applicants elect to prosecute Group I, Claims 1-13 and 33-43 for substantive examination, with traverse.

It is respectfully suggested that independent claim 14 is a linking claim, linking the two distinct inventions. The non-elected invention of Group II includes claims 14-32, of which claims 15-26 depend from independent claim 14. Independent claim 14 recites the filtration station "...with means for causing the solution present in the suspension to pass through the filter unit and the liquid inlet into the vessel;..." and "...means for removing the filter unit from the vessel...". (Emphasis added.) It is respectfully suggested that this independent claim is a linking claim, and that this claim, as well as the claims dependent from it, i.e., claims 15-26, should be examined with the elected invention of Group I. MPEP 806.5(e).

The applicants respectfully request that Group I, claims 1-13 and 33-43 and Group II, claims 14-26 be examined together. The applicants respectfully further request timely examination of this application leading to allowance of all elected claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if there are any questions about this Response or other issues that may be resolved in that fashion.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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